



Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment Meánscoil Gharman

Child Protection Statement Meánscoil Gharman Secondary School is a post-primary school that provides education at primary and post-primary levels for students from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year. In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Appendix to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023), and Tusla's Guidance on Preparing Child Protection Statements, the Board of Management of Meánscoil Gharman Secondary School has agreed the Child Protection Statement set out in this document.

1. The Board of Management has adopted the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) of the Department and will implement them fully, without modification or amendment, as part of the comprehensive Child Protection Statement.
2. **Norah Harpur** is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP).
3. **Cécile O'Connor** is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DLP).
4. **Norah Harpur** is the Relevant Person (the Relevant Person is the individual who can provide information on how the Child Protection Statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement if requested. In a school setting, the Relevant Person is the DLP).
5. The Board of Management acknowledges that safeguarding and the welfare of children apply to every aspect of school life and must be reflected in the policies, procedures, practices, and activities of the school. The school will comply fully with its legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and all relevant legislation concerning the protection and welfare of children.

The school will:

- Acknowledge that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of any other considerations.
- Comply fully with its legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and all relevant legislation concerning the protection and welfare of children.
- Fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities on matters of child protection and welfare.
- Implement safe practices to minimize the risk of harm or accidents to children and to protect staff from unnecessary risks that could leave them open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- Develop an open practice with parents and encourage parental involvement in their children's education.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements when dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also apply these principles to any adult student who is in a position of special vulnerability.

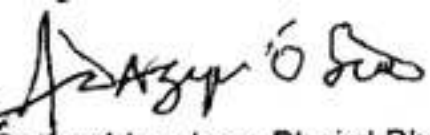
1. The following procedures/actions are in place:
 - Regarding any staff member who is under investigation (whether reported or not) concerning any action, inaction, or circumstance relating to a child attending the school, the school complies with the relevant procedures outlined in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) and implements the agreed procedures for staff as published on the gov.ie website.
 - Regarding the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school complies with the legal requirements of the Garda Vetting Acts 2012 to 2016 and follows the broader guidance regarding the duty of care set out in the Garda vetting circulars and recruitment guidelines published by the Department, which are available on gov.ie.

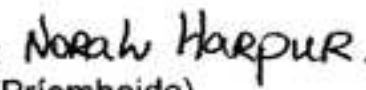
- Regarding information, guidance, and training to be provided to staff regarding identifying potential harm (as defined in the 2015 Act), the following actions have been taken by the school:
 - The school has provided a copy of the Child Protection Statement to all staff members.
 - Ensures that a copy of the Child Protection Statement is provided to all new staff members.
 - Encourages staff members to engage in relevant training.
 - Encourages Board members to engage in relevant training.
 - The Board maintains records of all staff and Board member training.
 - Regarding reporting child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to follow the procedures outlined in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023), including registered teachers, those designated to report under the Children First Act 2015.
- The school has designated a Liaison Person as the “appropriate person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) as the first point of contact regarding the school’s child protection statement.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are designated under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Appendix to Children First (2019), the Board has conducted an assessment of potential harm to a child attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment is included in the Child Protection Statement, identifying the risk areas and outlining the school’s procedures for managing those risks.
- The various procedures referenced in this statement are available on the school’s website, on gov.ie, or can be made available on request from the school.

Note: The above is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management may also include other procedures/actions that are relevant to the particular school concerned.

1. This statement has been published on the school’s website and has been made available to all school staff, the Parents' Association (if applicable), and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this statement will be provided to Tusla and the Department if requested.
2. This Child Protection Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as possible following any significant changes to its contents.

The Board of Management adopted the Child Protection Statement on _____16.05.24_____ [date]. The Board of Management reviewed the Child Protection Statement in _____2025_____ [most recent review date].

Síniúthé: 
(Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bhainistíochta)

Síniúthé: 
(Príomhoide)

Dáta: 16.5.24 Dáta: 16.5.24

Dáta an chéad athbhreithníthe eile: 2025

Risk Assessment for Child Protection

Written Risk Assessment for [School Name] Under Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023), the following is the Risk Assessment for Meánscoil Gharman Secondary School.

1. **List of School Activities:**
 - Daily arrival and departure of students
 - Break times for students

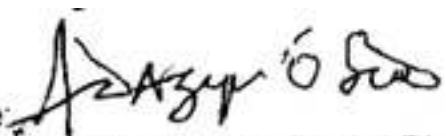
- Classroom teaching
- One-on-one teaching
- One-on-one learning support
- One-on-one counselling
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Online teaching and learning (remote)
- Sports activities
- School tours
- School tours involving overnight stays
- International school trips
- Use of school toilet areas/change rooms/showers
- Residential facilities for students
- Annual Sports Day
- Fundraising events involving student participation
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- School transport arrangements, including bus chaperones
- Childcare for students with special educational needs, including personal care when necessary
- Managing challenging behaviour among students, including appropriate use of restraint when necessary
- Management of food and drink provision
- Administration of medication
- Emergency first aid
- Providing curriculum related to PSHE, RSE, and Safety
- Anti-bullying measures and dealing with bullying among students
- Training staff on child protection matters
- Use of external personnel to support the curriculum
- Use of external personnel for sports and extracurricular activities
- Providing care for students with vulnerabilities/ specific needs such as:
 - Minority ethnic/immigrant students
 - Traveller children
 - LGBT+ students
 - Religious minority students
 - Students in care
 - Students on the Child Protection Register
 - Students with medical needs
- Recruitment of school staff, including:
 - Teachers/CRS
 - Caretakers/Secretaries/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External guest speakers/teachers
 - Volunteers/Parents involved in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors attending extracurricular activities after school
- Participation in religious ceremonies/teaching outside of school
- Use of Information Technology by students at school, including social media
- Enforcing school's Code of Behaviour, including detention, confiscating phones, etc.
- Students engaged in work experience within the school
- Students engaged in work experience outside the school
- Trainee teachers conducting their placement in the school
- Photography/filming/school media coverage of school events
- Use of school facilities by external organizations
- External organizations using school facilities during school hours

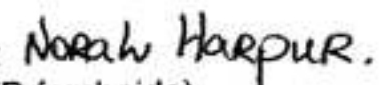
2. **Risk of harm associated with these activities:**

- Risks of harm not identified by school staff
- Risks of non-reporting of harm promptly and appropriately by staff
- Risks of staff members causing harm to children in school
- Risk of one student causing harm to another student
- Risk of a volunteer or visitor causing harm to a student during school activities (e.g., school tours, swimming lessons)
- Risks associated with inappropriate use of online teaching platforms
- Risk of bullying among students
- Risk of racial discrimination and harm
- Risk of inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of inadequate supervision during extracurricular activities
- Risk of inappropriate communication between students or between students and adults

- Risk of children accessing inappropriate content via the internet/social media
 - Risks to children with specific vulnerabilities, including medical needs
 - Risks of harm caused by inappropriate behaviour by staff or volunteers
 - Risks associated with one-on-one teaching, counselling, coaching
 - Risks of staff communicating with students inappropriately via digital means
 - Risks of staff sharing inappropriate material digitally with students
3. **Measures to mitigate identified risks:**
- Ensure all staff are familiar with the Child Protection Statement
 - Ensure all staff are trained on Child Protection Procedures (including mandatory reporting and reporting mechanisms)
 - Develop and enforce clear safeguarding policies in all areas, including teaching, extracurricular activities, supervision, and IT usage
 - Implement vetting procedures for all staff, volunteers, and visitors
 - Ensure appropriate student behaviour policies are adhered to (e.g., anti-bullying policies)
 - Provide training for staff on managing vulnerable students
 - Implement clear lines of communication for reporting concerns
 - Conduct regular audits of child protection and safeguarding procedures
 - Provide support for students with special needs and vulnerabilities
 - Maintain a safe school environment and a positive school culture
4. **Conclusion:** The school has identified and assessed all potential risks related to child protection and welfare, and has put in place policies and procedures to mitigate these risks as much as possible. Staff, students, and parents are encouraged to report any concerns immediately.

This Risk Assessment document will be reviewed and updated as needed on an annual basis, or sooner should there be any significant changes or incidents that require attention.

Sínte: 
(Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bhainistíochta)

Sínte: 
(Príomhoide)

Dáta: 16.5.24 Dáta: 16.5.24

Dáta an chéad athbheithithe eile: 2025